



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 19, 2023

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
T. Lloyd K. McGregor	Present: S. Henderson-Todd, Lennox and Addington Resources for Children H. Simson, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University) Z. Rogers, Community Living Kingston Regrets: L. Clouthier, Easter Seals Ontario C. Norwich-Stevenson, Member-at-Large
	Staff:
	M. Blackburn, Principal of Educational Services J. Lalonde, Special Education Program Coordinator L. Conboy, Mental Health Lead W. Fisher, Educational Services and Safe Schools Coordinator S. Gillam, Superintendent, Learning for All N. Dillard, Vice-Principal of Educational Services C. Snider, Special Education Program Coordinator T. Vail, Special Education Program Coordinator A. Ward, Special Education Program Coordinator
Guests:	Recorder:
None	J. Senior, Administrative Assistant

1. WELCOME

Chair McGregor called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chair McGregor read the Acknowledgement of Territory:

“The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Métis, Inuit, and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land.”

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY: Trustee Lloyd that the agenda be approved. Carried.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None at this time.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 SEAC Minutes – March 22, 2023

MOVED BY: Trustee Lloyd that the March 22, 2023, SEAC Minutes be approved. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Superintendent Gillam shared information regarding the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for 2023-2026, which is in the final stages of completion and will go to the Executive Council for final approval on April 24, 2023. Superintendent Gillam asked SEAC Members to share any edits or comments they might want to share before that date.

The closing date for public interest in becoming a SEAC Member-at-Large was April 12, 2023. We received six packages as of the closing date. The selection process is now underway and we are hopeful of bringing a nominee to the next Board Meeting first and then secondly to the next SEAC Meeting.

6. EDUCATION SERVICES UPDATE

6.1 Presentation: MH LIT – Student Mental Health In Action – Mental Health Lead Laura Conboy shared that MH LIT: Student Mental Health in Action is a series of four lessons, and now two expansions, to support the development of basic mental health knowledge and help-seeking skills. The lessons are designed for use with secondary students, focusing on building their understanding of mental health and mental illness, signs of mental health problems, and how/where to access help when needed.

The lessons were created and developed through a collaboration with the following:

- Teacher federations
- ThriveSMT (Student Mental Health)
- OSTA-AECO (Ontario Student Trustee Association)
- Kids Help Phone
- Be There/Jack.org

Although educators are not mental health professionals, they have an important role in creating mentally healthy classroom environments, noticing students whom we may be concerned about, and teaching students about maintaining good mental health. Students with learning disabilities may be at a great risk for mental health problems, including ADHD, anxiety, mood disorders, and interpersonal problems (Buber et. al., 2020). Good teaching practices and classroom accommodations to support students when they are presenting with feelings, thoughts, and behaviours that are interfering with learning can be an important protective factor and help bolster their skills toward success.

Background and Rationale

There are important reasons to bring mental health learning into the classroom:

- Students want to learn about mental health in the classroom.
- Promoting student mental health and well-being during the pandemic and beyond.
- Opening conversations.
- Helping students in need to reach support.
- Offering valuable learning experiences.
- Providing opportunities to develop skills.

Connection to the MHSU Strategy

Student Centered:

- Tier 1 Mental Health promotion, literacy, and help-seeking are important pieces to keep students safe!

Areas of Focus:

- Mental Health and Substance Use Knowledge/Support.
- Equip and Support Staff.
- Reinforce awareness of and access to pathways to care.

Supportive Resources:

- School Readiness Checklist
- Implementation Resources for School Leaders
- Educator Preparation Suggestions
- Connections to Curriculum Strands
- Parent/Caregiver Resources

Ernestown Secondary School to Community Classroom

- Educator/Mental Health Lead (MHL) collaboration to co-deliver lessons over four weeks (in person).
- Adaptations were made.
- Pre-and post-tests were created.

Next Steps

- Part of 2022-2023 MHSU Action Plan.
- November 2022 – Invited interested School to Community (STC) educators to brief after school refresher session.
- November 2022 – MHL invited to present as part of SMHO's Knowledge and Implementation Series.
- Ongoing collaboration between MHL and STC Services Special Education Coordinator.
- Continue to explore innovative ways to deliver lessons.
- Collaboration with KFL&A Public Health Nurses to support implementation in select Grade 9 Phys Ed classes identified through 2022 School Climate Survey data.
- Inclusion in 2023 Mental Health Week resources for educators.

Chair McGregor called upon SEAC Members for questions regarding the MH LIT – Student Mental Health In Action.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 No correspondence at this time.

8. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Helen Simson, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston:

The Inclusive Classroom: What will it look like and how will we get there?

Our annual free online conference is on May 13, 2023, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This is a four-hour forum focusing on the Inclusive Classroom. Session 1: Literacy and Initiatives and Session 2: The Inclusive Classroom. Anyone is free to register who has an interest in education and inclusive education.

9. OTHER BUSINESS – Administrative Report: Superintendent’s Report

A. Ministry Updates:

Education Community and Partnership Programs (ECCP) Monitoring Visits

The Ministry of Education regularly performs monitoring visits of ECCP programs throughout the province. Monitoring is a key component of accountability of ECCPs with the following objectives:

- Confirms the accuracy of the information submitted to the Ministry Applications for ECCPs.
- Ensures the implementation of Ministry policy as set out in the Guidelines for Approval and Provision of Education and Community Partnership Program (ECCP).
- Oversees how the education program is designed to enhance student achievement and well-being.
- Provides sector feedback to the Ministry from various stakeholders (i.e., students, staff, agency/facility, board).

A monitoring visit has been set for later this Spring and for this 2022/23 school year, the Ministry will be visiting the Nexus-Maltby program which is currently housed at Truedell Public School.

B. Educational Services Update:

Special Education Review Update

The next phase of the Special Education Review will get underway at the end of this month. All Limestone staff will receive a direct email with the link to the Thought Exchange questions that were shared with students and families in February. In addition, community partners and the general public will have access to the Thought Exchange through social media outlets as well as sharing through our schools. We are looking forward to bringing the data from these engagement exercises to SEAC later in the Spring.

Professional Development Updates

At the March 21, 2023, Learning Program Support (LPS) Teacher Meeting, teachers were provided with key system messages including Lexia, the roll out of 1:1 devices for Grade 9, and the Special Education Review. Teachers also engaged in deep math learning with Jackie Decker, Secondary Math Consultant, focusing on “Supporting Secondary Students in Math: Just in Time Gap Filling to Access Grade Level Curriculum.” They also had an opportunity to explore the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Sharepoint, share best practices for LPS teachers and learned about Universal Screeners like Dibels, and practiced administering and scoring the screener.

At the March 27, 2023, Student Support Teacher (SST) Meeting, teachers were very busy sharing their success stories as well as their struggles through Exit Cards and Thought Exchange. They also had the opportunity to explore the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Sharepoint site as well as learn about the Math/Special Education Project that is starting this Spring. Learning included:

- Learning ways to support all students by digging into the math through hands-on learning.
- Identifying where students are on the “Continuum of Numeracy Development” for multiplication and division.
- Noticing and naming what phase of numeracy development students are in, and what strategies they are using, using actual LDSB student work.
- Planning next steps for whole class and small group support.
- Practicing math activities and games to support students in developing these skills.

SST teachers will meet again on April 25, 2023, and LPS teachers will meet again on May 2, 2023.

On the afternoon of March 23, 2023, Education Community and Partnership Program (ECP) teachers had the opportunity to engage in professional development that focused on supporting students with special needs as they built their fluency skills in mathematics. Participants were provided information on simple diagnostic tasks and instructional strategies to use based on the data they are collecting. The main focus was on getting to know your learners and use engaging strategies to move them forward. Participants also received manipulatives and instructional kits to use in their classrooms.

On April 5, 2023, twenty-one School to Community educators gathered to learn from, and with board leaders in Math, Literacy, and ABA. Together they dove into the University of Florida Literacy Initiative (UFLI) resource to seek out science of reading informed entry points to support their students and were acquainted with the use of an array of hands-on-manipulatives and activities to engage their students in meaningful curriculum-fueled math learning.

On April 20, 2023, District Learning Centre (DLC) teachers will meet to learn about the Math/Special Education project and begin the work related to this initiative. They will also continue discussion around the Third Path Resource and the mid-year review process.

On May 4, 2023, District Autism classroom teachers will engage in Math professional development focusing on teaching students with special education needs for a half day. The other half of the day will be spent focusing on skills-based treatment related to Applied Behaviour Analysis or ABA.

Chair McGregor called on SEAC Members for questions.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, May 31, 2023 – Tri-Board SEAC Meeting

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: Trustee Lloyd that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm.